

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

36

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Joseph J. Simons  
Chairman  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Simons and Chairman Pai:

We write to urge the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to broadly investigate the sale of Americans' location data by wireless carriers, location aggregators, and other third parties.

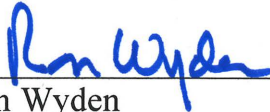
Last year, multiple news reports highlighted the fact that the four major wireless carriers, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon, sold their customers' location data to approximately seventy companies, without the explicit knowledge or consent of their customers. After significant negative press coverage, the wireless industry pledged to end these business practices. A recent investigation published by *Motherboard*, however, demonstrated not only that the wireless carriers are still failing to protect their customers' private information, but also that location data can be purchased by stalkers, domestic abusers, and others. It is clear that these wireless carriers have failed to regulate themselves or police the practices of their business partners, and have needlessly exposed American consumers to serious harm.

To that end, we urge the FTC and the FCC to conduct broad investigations, as appropriate, into the business partnerships between wireless carriers and location aggregators, including resellers and all downstream buyers of location data. Specifically, your agencies should determine whether wireless carriers or aggregators knew, or should have known, that failing to demand and verify subscriber consent would result in individuals obtaining location data without the respective subscriber's knowledge or consent. We also ask your agencies to require the wireless carriers to notify every American whose location they shared or sold and to identify to those subscribers the specific companies that obtained their location information.

Americans expect that their location data will be protected. The wireless industry has repeatedly demonstrated a blatant disregard for its customers' privacy. It is therefore vital

that regulators take swift action to ensure that consumers are protected. Please respond to this letter by February 5, 2019.

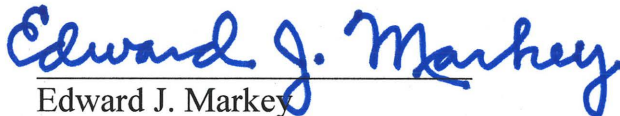
Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



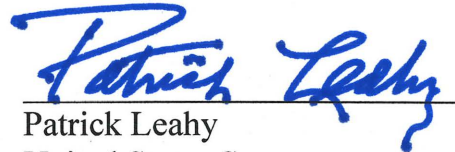
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



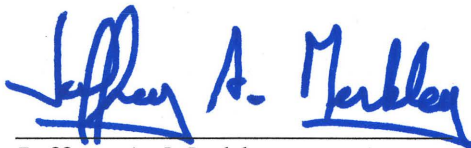
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



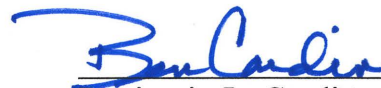
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



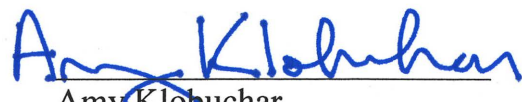
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



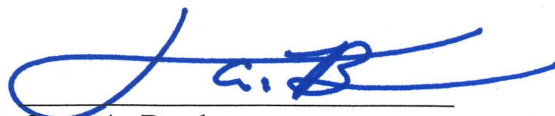
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



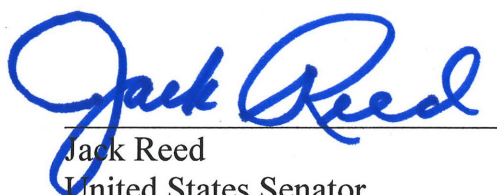
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator